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Docket No. JJA-381

CE/3731  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Paul W. Watt et al.  
Serial No. : 09/164,793 Art Unit: 3731  
Filed : October 1, 1998 Examiner: G. Jackson  
For : BIOPOLYMER SPONGE TUBES, SURGICAL STAPLERS AND  
METHODS OF USE THEREOF

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
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January 14, 2002  
(Date)

Theodore J. Shatynski

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

*Theodore J. Shatynski*  
(Signature)

January 14, 2002  
(Date of Signature)

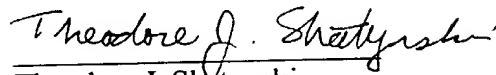
**COMMUNICATION**

Receipt is acknowledged of Examiner's Advisory Action mailed December 1, 2001. The Examiner refers to a Reply filed February 28, 2001. However the application has progressed to the point far beyond February 28, 2001. A Reply Brief had been mailed on October 11, 2001 along

with a Request for Oral Hearing. Prior to October 11, 2001, Applicant mailed an Appellant's Brief on May 22, 2001.

Clarification is requested from Examiner on what action, if any, is due.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Theodore J. Shatynski  
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Dated: January 14, 2002